

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 WRD-03 SCCT-02 JUSE-00 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 081435Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3106

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1187

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKING

1. FOLLOWING ITEM DATELINED AMSTERDAM MARCH 7 APPEARED IN ANP NEWS BULLETIN THIS MORNING:

2. "THE HAARLEM COMMITTING JUDGE, MR. J.J. MATTHIJSSE, TODAY ORDERED THAT TWO YOUNG ARABS BE HELD IN CUSTODY FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF SIX DAYS ON SUSPICION OF HIJACKING A BRITISH AIRLINER TO AMSTERDAM AND SETTING IT ON FIRE LAST SUNDAY.

3. "THE TWO ARABS, WHO WERE ARRESTED AT SCHIPHOL AIRPORT, HAD EARLIER APPEARED BEFORE THE HAARLEM PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, MR.J.J. BREDIUS, FOR A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

4. "MR. BREDIUS TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE TWO MEN, 23-YEAR-OLD AHMAD NURI AND 21-YEAR-OLD SAMI HUSSEIN TAMIMI, HAD APPEARED TO BE VERY CALM AND COLLECTED. THEY SEEM TO REGARD THEMSELVES AS SOLDIERS, TRAINED FOR A MISSION. THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR ASSIGNMENT AND FOR THE REST THEY ARE NOT

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PARTICULARLY CONCERNED'.

5. "THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR EMPHASIZED THAT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WAS MERELY A CONTINUATION OF THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS HE AGREED THAT IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE--'AT LEAST IN THEORY'-- THAT THE CASE MAY BE SET ASIDE.

6. "ASKED ABOUT THE POLITICAL MOTIVES OF THE HIJACKING, HE SADI THIS MIGHT BE OF IMPORTANCE WHEN THE CASE IS TRIED IN DUE COURSE, BUT THAT SUCH MOTIVES WERE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DURING THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS AND IN PREFERRING THE CHARGES AGAINST THE MEN.

7. "HE CONFIRMED THAT THE CHARGES COULD BE BASED ON ARTICLE 285 A, THE SO-CALLED HIJACKING ARTICLE, INCORPORATED IN THE DUTCH PENAL CODE ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO.

8. "UNDER THIS ARTICLE TWO PERSONS HIJACKING A PLANE ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM OF 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT EACH. IN ADDITION THE TWO ARABS COULD ALSO BE CHARGED WITH ARSON AND THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, ARRESTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA01187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740356/aaaacabw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005